expansion plans on semi-urban and rural areas and to take innovative steps like opening community kitchens in villages and sale of 5kg cyliners to low-income group customers to increase the supply of LPG in uncovered areas.

Exploration of Gas and Petroleum

†4277. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reformulated any scheme for the exploration of gas and petroleum in the country;

(b) if so, the names of States where exploration work of gas and petroleum is in progress;

(c) the details of amount spent on the same during the year 2004-05; and

(d) the details of the locations State-wise where success has been achieved in the field of oil and gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In order to offer a level playing field to private. foreign and National Oil Companies(NOCs), the Government of India formulated the New Exploration Licensing Policy(NELP) with attractive fiscal terms. Under four rounds of NELP completed so far, the Government of India have signed Production Sharing Contracts(PSCs) for 90 exploration blocks. In addition, contracts for 16 Coal Bed Methane(CBM) exploration blocks have also been signed. On 4 January 2005, Government announced the fifth round of NELP, under which 20 exploration blocks have been offered for competitive bidding.The details of the blocks are annexed as Statement. (*See* below).The bid closing date is 31 May 2005.

(b) Exploration activities are being carried out in the onland areas of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal and West Bengal. In addition, exploration efforts are being continued in the shallow and deep water offshore areas of the East and West Coast.

CBM exploration is also being carried out in the States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and West Bengal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The amount spent on exploration by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and private/joint venture companies upto December, 2004 in the financial year 2004-05 was Rs. 2288.31 crore and Rs. 1249.11 crore (US $ 277.58 million) respectively, while expenditure on exploration by Oil India Limited (OIL) in 2004-05 was Rs. 302.40 crore.

(d) The details of new hydrocarbon discoveries made by ONGC, OIL, GSPC (Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd.) and Private/Joint Venture Companies in onland areas in 2004-05 are as under:—

State	Name of Discoveries	Company
Assam	North Tinali	OIL
	Saundag	OIL
	West Zaloni	OIL
	Tiphuk	ONGC
Gujarat	PK#2	GSPC Consortium
Rajasthan	Shakti	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd.
	Bhagyam	Cairn Energy India Pvt. Ltd.

Moreover 7 gas discoveries were made by Reliance Industries Limited in the Eastern Offshore region.

Statement

Details of Exploration Blocks on offer under NELP-V

Sl.No.	Block Name	Basin	Area (Sq. Km.)	State/Offshore	District
	Deep Water Blocks				
1	KK-DWN-2003/1	Kerala Konkan	18245	Western Off.	
2	KK-DWN-2003/2	Kerala Konkan	12285	Western Off.	
3	KG-DWN-2003/1	Krishna-Godavari	3288	Eastern Off.	
4	MN-DWN-2003/1	Mahanadi	17050	Eastern Off.	
5	AN-DWN-2003/1	Andaman Nicobar	9970	Andanman Off.	
6	AN-DWN-2003/2	Andaman Nicobar	13110	Andaman Off.	
	Shallow Offshore Block				
7	CB-OSN-2003/1	Gulf of Cambay	2394	Western Off.	
8	GS-OSN-2003/1	Saurashtra	5970	Western Off.	
	Onland Blocks				
9	AA-ONN-2003/1	Assam - Arakan	81	Assam	Golaghat
10	AA-ONN-2003/2	Assam - Arakan	295	Arunachal Pradesh	Changlang
11	AA-ONN-2003/3	Assam - Arakan	275	Assam	Tinsukia
12	GV-ONN-2003/1	Ganga Velley	7210	Uttar Pradesh	Deoria, Gorakhpur

Sl.No.	Block Name	Basin	Area (Sq. Km.)	State/Offshore	District
13	VN-ONN-2003/1	Vindhyan	3585	Rajasthan	Kota & Jhalawar
14	RJ-ONN-2003/1	Rajasthan	1335	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer Barmer
15	RJ-ONN-2003/2	Rajasthan	13195	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer-Barmer, Jodhpur
16	CB-ONN-2003/1 Part-A & B	Cambay	635	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Kheda
17	CB-ONN-2003/2	Cambay	448	Gujarat	Bharuch
18	DS-ONN-2003/1	Deccan Syneclise	3155	Maharashtra	Dhule
19	KG-ONN-2003/1	Krishna-Godavari	1697	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna, Guntur
20	CY-ONN-2003/1	Cauvery	957	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur

Import of Petroleum Prodcucts

4278. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by 2025, India will probably be importing 86 per cent of its petroleum requirements compared to 70 per cent last year;

(b) if so, the details worked out for such imports from different countries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The India Hydrocarbons Vision document estimates the demand for oil as likely to increase to 364 million tonnes per annum by the year 2024-25. As such, notwithstanding the anticipated increase in domestic output, the country's dependence on imports would be higher than the present level of around 70% and is expected to be in the region of 85%.

(b) Sourcing long-term or spot crude oil imports is a continuous process and the details depend on the contractual or purchase arrangements made with national oil companies of foreign countries and other market operators, as well as the types of crude oil available in international oil markets. The purchase pattern is aimed at optimizing refining margins.